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## No. II.

## ARCHIL TEST PAPER.

MR. LEWTHWAITE communicated to the Society a short notice on test paper, tinged blue by archil, as a substitute for that tinged blue by litmus. On some comparative experiments being made, the archil paper was found to be inferior to litmus paper as a test for acids, in the proportion of about one to five; but as a test for fixed alkalies and lime it is superior in delicacy to turmeric paper, in the proportion of about two to one: it is sooner affected by water mixed with carbonated magnesia, than turmeric paper is, and is also more affected than turmeric by the subsalts of lead. Boracic acid changes the colour of turmeric to red,—an anomaly that is likely to mislead young chemists; no such effect attends the action of boracic acid on archil paper.

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## No. III.

## ITALIAN PLAT WHEAT GROWN IN ENGLAND.

A SMALL quantity of Italian plat wheat having been placed at the disposal of the Society, a few grains were given to Mr. George Aikin, of Harlington, Bedfordshire. These grains, considered as a sample of bread-corn, were very bad, being light, small, and shrivelled. They

were sown, and that part of their produce which escaped the birds was drilled thick in February 1827 on a piece of poor gravelly soil. It ripened, and was cut in the second week of August. The plants came up considerably stronger than they had done the year before; and the straw, notwithstanding the dryness of the season, was too coarse for fine plat; but the sample of seed considered as corn was much improved. Hence Mr. G. Aikin infers, that Italian plat wheat, grown in England, will probably, in two or three generations, not be distinguishable from ordinary spring wheat.

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#### No. IV.

### ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE SPECIMENS PRESERVED IN BRINE.

IN the 37th vol. of the Transactions will be found an account, by Mr. Cook, of his method of preserving anatomical preparations in brine. The specimens mentioned in that paper have continued ever since in the Society's possession—it being now thirteen years since they were first put up—and are at present in a state of perfect preservation, having neither lost their colour, nor having become corrugated, and the transparency of the liquor not being at all impaired.

The Secretary of the Society had recourse to the same method, last year, of preserving certain parts of vegetables, chiefly the seed-vessels and parts of fructification. Those which were merely put into a jar of